

IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A receptacle comprising:
an insulative socket housing having an opening part through which a plug having dual in-line male contacts is inserted;
female contacts which are arrayed in parallel on a pair of inner walls opposed to each other of the opening part and come into contact with the male contacts when the plug is inserted into the opening part; and
an insulative shutter which closes a front face of the opening part when the plug is removed and retracts towards a rear face of the opening part by being pushed by the plug when the plug is inserted; and
a shell covering the socket housing; wherein
the shutter is formed of a substantially flat board-like element disposed approximately perpendicular to the direction of the plug insertion; and wherein
the shell comprises a member for partially covering the front face of the opening part.

2. (Original) The receptacle according to claim 1, wherein the shutter is provided with an elastic member for moving the shutter towards the front face of the opening part when the plug is removed from the opening part.

3. (Original) The receptacle according to claim 1, wherein legs of the female contacts is extended from the socket housing to be fixed on a printed circuit board.

4. (Original) The receptacle according to claim 2, wherein legs of the female contacts is extended from the socket housing to be fixed on a printed circuit board.

5. (Original) The receptacle according to any one of claims 1 to 4 further comprising: a shell for covering the socket housing; and a pair of soldering tabs

for fixing the socket housing onto the printed-circuit board disposed on side parts of the shell.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) The receptacle of-according to any one of claims 1 to 4 to be used as an interface connector of a miniature electronic device.

9. (Original) The receptacle according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the female contacts are arrayed in parallel at regular intervals of 0.5 mm.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for connecting a plug to the receptacle according to any one of claims 1 to 4, the plug comprising: an insulative plug housing having a frame part and a header part which is formed integrally with the frame part and is protruded from the frame part to be inserted into the receptacle; male contacts arrayed in parallel and pairs-on a pair of outer walls on the header part; and a plug shutter which covers the male contacts arrayed on the header part and can be stored in the frame part, and the method comprising: moving the plug shutter towards the rear face of the opening part along inner walls of the opening part when the plug is inserted into the opening part of the receptacle; and moving the plug shutter towards the front face of the opening part along the inner walls of the opening part when the plug is removed from the receptacle.

11. (Original) A plug capable of being connected to the receptacle according to any one of claims 1 to 4.